

EPA ID: NJD002164457 Site Name: W A CLEARY CHEM CORP

State ID:

Alias Site Names:

City: SOMERSET

County or Parish: SOMERSET

State: NJ

Refer to Report Dated:

Report Type: Site Inspection Prioritization 001

Report Developed by: START

DECISION:

☒ 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:

☒ 1a. Site does not qualify for further remedial site assessment under CERCLA (No Further Remedial Action Planned - NFRAP)

☐ 1b. Site may qualify for action, but is deferred to:

☐ 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:

2a. Priority: ☐ Higher ☐ Lower

2b. Other: (recommended action) NFRAP (No Further Remedial Action Planned)

DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

This site has been designated No Further Remedial Action Planned (NFRAP). The site has entered into an Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with NJDEP and has begun a groundwater monitoring and remediation program, as well as the removal of much of the contaminated soil.

The W.A. Cleary Chemical Corp. (WA Cleary) is a 136-acre property located in a mixed industrial, commercial, and residential area. Approximately 8 acres of the property are used for manufacturing purposes, while the remaining 128 acres are a golf course.

The site has a history from 1944 to 1985 of food additive and agricultural chemical production, including herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides. Currently, only food additives are produced on site.

GW: There is a documented release of site-attributable contaminants to groundwater. Shallow groundwater moves radially from the site, therefore there is no true upgradient shallow well location. Deeper groundwater moves westward. Contaminants detected at elevated concentrations during sampling events in 1983 and 1986 include arsenic, cadmium, mercury, and benzene. Sampling of four domestic wells in 1998 detected arsenic and cadmium but at concentrations below drinking water standards. The nearest drinking water well is a private well of unknown depth located approximately 360 feet from site. 35 people receive their drinking water from wells within 4 miles of the site. Primary drinking water supplies for communities in the vicinity of the site are obtained from sources located farther than four miles from the site. WA Cleary has installed a pump and treat system on site to mitigate elevated levels of contaminants in the groundwater onsite through an ACO with NJDEP.

SW: A release of contaminants to surface water has been neither observed nor suspected. The property is situated within two storage basins. About 5 acres of the western portion of the site drains westward toward an unnamed tributary of the Six Mile Run River. Six Mile Run discharges into the Millstone River which then discharges into the Raritan River. The remainder of the site drains north and eastward toward municipal storm drains along Route 27. Previous site drainage also occurred northward via the drainage swale across the golf course which eventually discharged into the Mile Run River. The culvert which connected the manufacturing area to the drainage swale has been cemented over.

The nearest surface water body is an unnamed tributary of Six Mile Run located 0.7 miles west of the site. It is not suspected to be impacted by onsite soil contamination due to its distance from the site and overlying terrain. There are no drinking water intakes located with the 15-mile TDL. There are 7.7 acres of wetlands, two state listed endangered species, and one state listed threatened species located within the TDL. There is a ban on the sale of all striped bass taken from the Raritan Bay complex. Consumption advisories for striped bass, blue fish, white perch, white catfish, and blue crab also exist.

SOIL: There is an observed release to at least 2.1 acres of soil onsite. The soil has been removed under an ACO with the NJDEP. There are no residences, schools, or daycare facilities within 200 feet of the site. Twelve people are currently employed at the facility. There are no terrestrial sensitive environments located on or within 200 feet. Contamination has been observed on the golf course, but below action levels. WA Cleary has received approval to backfill the site with clean fill from the golf course, but the lagoon has yet to be filled. It is currently filled with rain water. The facility has submitted a draft deed notice proposing the following engineering controls for the excavated areas: placement and compaction of backfilled materials; and soil capping of backfilled areas via reseeding.

AIR: A release to air has been neither observed nor is one suspected. Background information indicates that 5.5 pounds of benzene evaporated per hour during the production of phenylmercuric acetate. However, no air sampling is known to have been conducted. The facility reportedly has ceased manufacturing this material as of 1977. 146,778 people reside within a 4-mile radius of the site. 220 acres of wetlands are found within 4 miles, as well as one federally listed threatened species, eight state listed endangered species and two state listed threatened species.

Site Decision Made by: KRISTIN DOBINSON

Signature:

Kristin Dobinson

Date: 05/19/2000

